

Chronology of Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program

Date	Description
28 November 2000	Letter to Central Valley Water Board Chair and Executive Officer from 65 parties requesting revocation of agricultural return flow exemptions from CWC. Petition to the Central Valley Water Board by DeltaKeeper, San Francisco BayKeeper and the California Public Interest Research Group to terminate Resolution No. 82-036 for irrigation return water.
26 January 2001	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: status report on the petition to revoke the waiver on agricultural return flows.
2 July 2001	Staff report reviewing options for controlling discharges from irrigated lands released to public.
27 July 2001	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: workshop reviewing of options for controlling discharges from irrigated lands.
7 September 2001	Public Hearing: petition to terminate Resolution No. 82-036 for irrigation return water denied. The Central Valley Water Board directed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - staff to request agencies and organizations to work with drainage from irrigated lands to establish local water quality monitoring efforts to identify sources of wastes - staff to assist and track the progress made by these voluntary efforts to monitor and control discharges of wastes from irrigated lands - that if the Executive Officer determined by 1 Feb. 2002 that satisfactory progress was not being made in assessing the extent and sources of wastes resulting from agricultural activities, the Executive Officer was to issue 13267 orders on appropriate parties to gather data needed for the Central Valley Water Board to evaluate the matter - staff to prepare recommendations on how to regulate this category of discharges by the end of 2002
6 December 2001	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: workshop on development of monitoring programs addressing discharges from irrigated lands. Staff was directed to work with agricultural representatives on voluntary monitoring to be conducted by the agricultural community.
15 February 2002	Memo to interested parties re: monitoring discharges from irrigated lands agenda item, including meeting agenda and draft table (Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Program for Discharges from Irrigated Lands).
1 March 2002	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: status report on monitoring discharges from irrigated lands.
5 March 2002	Memo released statewide from Office of Legislative and Public Affairs announcing the State Board would seek statewide input on controls for agricultural runoff.
8 March 2002	Central Valley Water Board Workshop on monitoring of discharges from irrigated lands (Stanislaus Agricultural Center, Modesto).
18 April 2002	State Board Public Workshop in Yuba City.
20 May 2002	State Board Public Workshop in Tulare.
5 September 2002	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: status report on waivers of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands.
Fall 2002	State Board determined that discharges from irrigated lands were primarily a Central Valley issue and the Central Valley Water Board resumed a lead role on the matter.
17 October 2002	Notice of Public Hearing, Draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration , tentative Resolution and Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands released to the public/interested parties.
21 November 2002	Public Comment Period Deadline for Draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration, tentative Resolution and Conditional Waiver.

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22 November 2002	Agenda material for December hearing on Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands, including staff report , released to public/interested parties.
5 December 2002	Public Hearing: staff presentation, public testimony, Resolution approving Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands adopted (unanimous vote), Resolution and Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands adopted (unanimous vote). The Central Valley Water Board directed staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider comments and questions raised by interested parties and Central Valley Water Board members - present a discussion of the issues - evaluate alternatives to addressing issues raised and make recommendations for revisions to the Conditional Waiver
6 December 2002	Motion to rescind Conditional Waiver adopted 5 December 2002 failed to pass (3 ayes, 3 noes).
1 January 2003	Resolution No. R5-2002-0201 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands sent to interested parties.
3 January 2003	Petition for review by State Board filed by agricultural interests on Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands.
3 January 2003	Petitions for stay of action and for review and request for evidentiary hearing by State Board filed by environmental interests on Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands.
9 January 2003	CEQA lawsuit on Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands filed in Superior Court.
February – March 2003	Mediation proceedings , coordinated by State Board, between agricultural and environmental representatives.
27 February 2003	Notice of postponement from March 2003 meeting to April 2003 meeting of agenda item: Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges from irrigated lands. Mailed to interested parties petitioning the Conditional Waiver to State Board. Notice also posted website with agenda for March meeting.
10 April 2003	Notice of Public Hearing, Staff Report, Conditional Waiver Order and MRP released to public. (Public comments originally due 21 April 2003)
16 April 2003	Letter from Executive Officer to interested parties acknowledging requests for time extension for public comments.
17 April 2003	Letter from Central Valley Water Board Chair to interested parties extending the public comment period to 23 May 2003, reconfirming the 24/25 April hearing and providing notice that the Central Valley Water Board would postpone action on the revisions to the Conditional Waiver proposed in April until its meeting scheduled for 10/11 July 2003 in Sacramento.
24 April 2003	Public Hearing: staff presentation on April proposals, public testimony. Motion passed by Central Valley Water Board (4 ayes, 3 noes; one Central Valley Water Board member recused) directing staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work with principal interested parties to develop phased monitoring and quality assurance programs - work with principal interested parties to devise a mechanism for identifying those who are not participating in the waiver, but should be participating - not consider a fee schedule at this time, and instead work with State Board and principal interested parties to develop funding for shorter term requirements and a strategy for long term funding - work with principal interested parties to develop a workable definition for a Watershed Group

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25 April 2003	DeltaKeeper representative during the Public Forum alleged procedural issues with the 24 April 2003 vote. Following the closed session, the Central Valley Water Board Chair announced that a staff attorney would further investigate the matter.
23 May 2003	Public Comment Period Deadline on April proposals.
23 June 2003	Notice of Public Hearing and revised Resolutions released to public.
7 July 2003	Public Comment Period Deadline on July proposals.
10 July 2003	Public Hearing: Rescission of Resolution Nos. R5-2002-0201 and R5-2002-0228 by Central Valley Water Board.
11 July 2003	Public Hearing: Conditional Waiver of Discharges from Irrigated Lands Resolution No. R5-2003-0105, Monitoring and Reporting Programs Order Nos. R5-2003-0826 and R5-2003-0827 and Resolution No. R5-2003-0103 approving the Initial Study adopted by Central Valley Water Board.
August 2003	Petitions filed by six agricultural interests and one environmental interest on the Central Valley Water Board's 11 July 2003 action to adopt Resolution Nos. R5-2003-0103, R5-2003-0105, R5-2003-0826 and R5-2003-0827.
7 January 2004	State Board Agenda Item: workshop to hear public testimony on the petitions filed by agricultural and environmental interests.
22 January 2004	Public Hearing: State Board adopts WQO-2004-0003 upholding Central Valley Water Board Waivers and Monitoring and Reporting Programs with revisions.
9 February 2004	IACC Agricultural Subcommittee Meeting: workshop for Central Valley Water Board staff to answer questions from Coalition Groups of what is required in the Watershed Evaluation Report due by April 1 st .
10 February 2004	Central Valley Water Board Monitoring Workshop to answer questions from Coalition Groups of what is required in the Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan due by April 1 st .
18 March 2004	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: information report on the following items related to the Conditional Waivers: Sample General Waste Discharge Requirements, Fees, Enforcement Strategy, Phase I and II Monitoring Activities, Environmental Impact Report and Notices of Intent.
28 June 2004	Public Advisory Committee Meeting in Modesto.
8 July 2004	Joint Regional and State Board Meeting: status report on Irrigated Lands Waivers pursuant to State Board WQO-2004-0003.
16 August 2004	Public Advisory Committee Meeting -- Agenda included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - status reports on monitoring programs - status report on public outreach - status on coalition outreach and membership efforts - purpose and status of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on program
27 September 2004	Public Advisory Committee Meeting in Modesto.
7 October 2004	Technical Issues Committee First Meeting-- Established goals and objectives, identified some technical issues, identified a tentative schedule
22 November 2004	Public Advisory Committee Meeting -- Agenda topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coalition Group/Water District presentations on Monitoring and Reporting Program Plans - Agricultural Water Quality Grants Program update - Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program updates
8 January 2005	Letter from Executive Officer to Coalition Groups requesting assistance in identifying non-participating growers.
28 January 2005	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: information report on potential revisions to Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program.

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14 February 2005	Public Advisory Committee Meeting -- Agenda topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - status of Central Valley Water Board Monitoring - Coalition Group updates on the status of Waiver activities and monitoring programs, - presentation on the Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of Non-Point Sources Pollution Control Program - status of EIR, Prop 50 Grants and Proposed Fees
16 February 2005	Technical Issues Committee -- Issues to consider and discuss in next meeting; to discuss sample containers for bioassessment
30 March 2004	Toxicity Triggers Focus Group Telemeeting -- Discussion regarding appropriate trigger to conduct Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) and other follow-up activities.
5 April 2005	Technical Issues Committee -- Discussions on issues concerning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bioassessment - sample containers - toxicity triggers
11 April 2005	Sediment Toxicity Focus Group Telemeeting -- First telemeeting to discuss TIEs, triggers, and chemistry that should be conducted on sediment samples.
19 April 2005	Meeting with 5 Irrigation Districts -- Begin discussion of draft MRP specific to Water Districts enrolling as Individual Dischargers.
25 April 2005	Sediment Toxicity Focus Group Meeting -- Begin discussion on uncertainties in growth endpoint.
25 April 2005	Toxicity Triggers Focus Group Meeting -- Discussion of appropriate endpoints for fathead minnow test and triggers. Need to clarify algae toxicity language.
3 May 2005	Technical issues Committee -- Discussions on issues concerning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bioassessment - sample containers - toxicity and triggers (algae and sediment) - management practices
6 May 2005	Public Comment Period for proposed revised Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for Coalition Groups. Deadline date: 3 June 2005 . Changes to the MRP include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - detection of 50% mortality during initial screening test triggers a Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) - Table 1 revised to reflect accurate Constituents and Reporting Units - amendment of due dates and stipulation that Watershed Evaluation Report and Monitoring and Reporting Program be submitted upon request of Executive Officer - clarifying the procedure to follow when monitoring results indicate water quality objectives are exceeded at a monitoring location
9 May 2005	Public Advisory Committee Meeting -- Agenda included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - status report on monitoring programs - status of Coalition Group monitoring - update on Technical Issues Committee - status of Environmental Impact Report - response to 13267 letters
19 May 2005	Tours of systems for water supply and tailwater at Modesto Irrigation District and Turlock Irrigation District.
28 May 2005	Sediment Toxicity Focus Group Telemeeting -- Discussions regarding endpoints, sample volume requirements, follow-up pesticide analyses cost and detection limits, TOC and other items.
2 June 2005	Tours of systems for water supply and tailwater at South San Joaquin Irrigation District and Oakdale Irrigation District..

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2 June 2005	<p>Public Comment Period for proposed revised Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for Coalition Groups. No comments received on 6 May 2005 draft MRP. Deadline for comments: 17 June 2005. Changes to the MRP from previous proposal include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - requires collection and evaluation of management practices when measured water quality constituent/parameter exceeds a water quality objective and describes the actions to be taken to identify and address the source of the exceedance - Table 1 revised to add column for analytical methods to be used and a column for frequency of monitoring - proposal to specify an inventory of management practices within the watershed to protect water quality - additional revisions to conform with proposed changes above
8 June 2005	<p>Public Outreach on Proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver – Napa County Information and listening session to obtain comments on and discuss criteria and conditions for the proposed Irrigated Lands Program De Minimis Conditional Waiver.</p>
9 June 2005	<p>Water Column Toxicity Focus Group – Discussion regarding algae toxicity, Phase I data, and control issues.</p>
13 June 2005	<p>Waiver Renewal Outreach Meeting with Coalition Group Leadership to obtain feedback on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program and to discuss what modifications should be considered during the Conditional Waiver renewal process.</p>
14 June 2005	<p>Public Outreach on Proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver – Nevada County Information and listening session to obtain comments on and discuss criteria and conditions for the proposed Irrigated Lands Program De Minimis Conditional Waiver.</p>
15 June 2005	<p>Waiver Renewal Outreach Meeting with Environmental Group Leadership to obtain feedback on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program and to discuss what modifications should be considered during the Conditional Waiver renewal process.</p>
16 June 2005	<p>Waiver Renewal Outreach Meeting with Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) staff to obtain feedback on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program and to discuss what modifications should be considered during the Conditional Waiver renewal process.</p>
20 June 2005	<p>Waiver Renewal Outreach Meeting with Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) staff to obtain feedback on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program and to discuss what modifications should be considered during the Conditional Waiver renewal process.</p>
21 June 2005	<p>Technical Issues Committee – Discussion and presentations by focus groups on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sediment toxicity - toxicity triggers - nutrients
23 June 2005	<p>Joint Regional and State Water Board Meeting: Information Report on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program.</p>
24 June 2005	<p>Tours of systems for water supply and tailwater at Merced Irrigation District and Turlock Irrigation District.</p>
29 June 2005	<p>Memorandum of Understanding signed by Central Valley Water Board, State Water Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Agricultural Commissioners of Butte and Glenn Counties.</p>
11 July 2005	<p>Public Outreach on Proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver – Plumas and Sierra Counties Information and listening session to obtain comments on and discuss criteria and conditions for the proposed Irrigated Lands Program De Minimis Conditional Waiver.</p>

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12 July 2005	Public Outreach on Proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver – Pit River Area Information and listening session to obtain comments on and discuss criteria and conditions for the proposed Irrigated Lands Program De Minimis Conditional Waiver.
13 July 2005	Public Outreach on Proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver – El Dorado County. Information and listening session to obtain comments on and discuss criteria and conditions for the proposed Irrigated Lands Program De Minimis Conditional Waiver.
13 July 2005	Contract for Environmental Impact Report for Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program signed with Jones & Stokes Associates.
15 July 2005	Sediment Focus Group Meeting – Discussion regarding growth endpoints, TIEs for sediment and pesticide monitoring in sediment.
15 July 2005	Water Column Toxicity Focus Group Meeting – Closure on the 50% trigger for TIE; discussion of other technical issues related to water column toxicity.
18 July 2005	Public Advisory Committee Meeting – Agenda topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coalition Group updates - Water District updates - Monitoring and Reporting Program revisions - Annual Monitoring Report reviews - status of Conditional Waiver extension and De Minimis Waiver - Technical Issues Committee update - Phase II monitoring update - Water Board fee schedule
21 July 2005	Public Comment Period for final proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for Coalition Groups based on all comments received to date. Deadline for comments: 3 August 2005 . Changes to the MRP from previous proposal include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - administrative changes in language (e.g., “Regional” Board to “Water” Board) - hardness added to list of constituents to monitor - semi-annual monitoring reports instead of annual monitoring reports required
3 August 2005	Waiver Renewal Outreach Meeting with California Farm Bureau Federation (CBBF) staff to obtain feedback on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program and to discuss what modifications should be considered during the Conditional Waiver renewal process.
5 August 2005	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: Amendment to Resolution R5-2003-015, Attachment B and C adopted in Resolution R5-2005-0107 by Central Valley Water Board. Request by Central Valley Water Board Chairman to present options to regulate groundwater discharges under Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program.
11 August 2005	Public Outreach on Proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver – DH Long Farm Information and listening session to obtain comments on and discuss criteria and conditions for the proposed Irrigated Lands Program De Minimis Conditional Waiver.
15 August 2005	Issuance of MRP No. R5-2005-0833 for Coalition Groups by Executive Order to replace MRP No. R5-2003-0826. Major revisions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - time for submittal of exceedance report when water quality objective has been exceeded - collection and evaluation of management practices in specific geographic areas when a water quality objective is exceeded - submittal of semi-annual reports by 30 June and 31 December each year
16 August 2005	Technical Issues Committee – presentations on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - analytical sensitivity and detection - water quality standards

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Date	Description
16 August 2005	Nutrient Focus Group Meeting – First meeting for the Nutrient Focus Group of the TIC. Began the process of determining objectives for the group and deciding upon tasks for follow-up.
26 August 2005	Letter from Executive Officer requesting membership lists from Coalition Groups; due 26 September 2005
29 August 2005	Public Advisory Committee Meeting/Informational Workshop on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program in Modesto – Agenda topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discussion of proposed revisions for Conditional Waiver renewal - status of Environmental Impact Report - update Memorandum of Understanding with Agricultural Commissioners - update on Monitoring and Reporting Program - Coalition Group updates - status of program compliance - groundwater discussion - update on UC Davis Phase II study - Annual Monitoring Report reviews
31 August 2005	Public Outreach on Proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver – Managed Wetlands Information and listening session to obtain comments on and discuss criteria and conditions for the proposed Irrigated Lands Program De Minimis Conditional Waiver. Participants included US. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish & Game, Ducks Unlimited, and the Grassland Water District.
31 August 2005	Workshop on sediment pesticide monitoring requirements for analytical laboratories given at Rancho Cordova office of the Central Valley Water Board.
1 September 2005	Informational Workshop on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program in Colusa. Overview of proposed changes to Program in Conditional Waiver renewal and status of proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver.
7 September 2005	Letter to Coalition Groups on Sediment Toxicity Requirements – Letter from Tom Pinkos to the Coalition Groups allowing for a modification to the USEPA procedure for sediment toxicity testing. The modification must be requested in writing from the Coalition Groups, as explained in the letter.
8 September 2005	Informational Workshop on Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program in Tulare. Overview of proposed changes to program in Conditional Waiver renewal and status of proposed De Minimis Conditional Waiver
15 September 2005	Central Valley Water Board Agenda Item: proposed Amendment to Resolution R5-2003-0105, Attachment A, tabled by Central Valley Water Board for further discussion. Information report on Conditional Waiver renewal and other program activities. Information report on groundwater options under Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program.
16 September 2005	Letter from Executive Officer extends deadline to 1 November 2005 for Coalition Groups to submit membership lists.